Delay in construction of staff quarters for EREB

1505. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay in construction of staff quarters for Eastern Regional Electricity Board has resulted in revenue loss of Rs. 78.35 lakh and enhancement of project cost by Rs. 2.61 crore till 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps being taken to get them completed at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There has been delay in construction of staff quarters for Eastern Regional Electricity Board which has resulted in increase in cost of the work by Rs. 1.67 crores. CPWD however is not aware of any revenue loss on account of delay in construction of the quarters.

(b) The work got delayed on account of the following:—

(i) Delay in obtaining approval of the local bodies, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority and Fire Services.

(ii) Rescinding of the work on directions of Kolkata High Court through a local public writ petition.

(iii) Disruption and rescinding of the work twice due to law and order problem in the area of the work (Tolyganj, Kolkata).

(c) The work has already been completed and handed over to the Eastern Regional Electricity Board on 3.5.1999.

Reduction in interest rates by HUDCO

1506. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has reduced the interest rates for its Niwas Home Loan Scheme to provide shelter for all;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when it is being implemented;